

TRANSCRIPTION - ORIGINAL FOLLOWS

1.

2. FOR SOME TIME WE HAVE HAD AN EXTENSIVE EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AND ASSESSMENTS OF THE AFGHAN SITUATION AND SOVIET INVOLVEMENT THERE WITH THE PAKISTANIS. WE THINK IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO HAVE A SIMILAR DIALOGUE WITH THE IRANIANS WITH SPECIAL ATTENTION TO THE SOVIET ROLE IN AFGHANISTAN. THIS DIALOGUE SHOULD FLOW NATURALLY FROM PREVIOUS DISCUSSIONS EMBASSY HAS HAD WITH PGOI.

3. THE RECENT KABUL [3 WORDS ILLEG] SOVIET
[ILLEG] AND INVOLVEMENT IF AFGHANISTAN [WORDS ILLEG]
[4 LINES ILLEG]

-- WE ARE VERY CONCERNED ABOUT INCREASING SOVIET INVOLVEMENT IN AFGHANISTAN. THE NUMBER OF SOVIET MILITARY ADVISERS HAS RECENTLY GROWN AND DELIVERIES OF EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES HAVE BEEN STEPPED UP. YOU MAY DRAW FROM FIGURES IN KABUL 6697 BUT SHOULD STRESS THEY ARE ROUGH ESTIMATES.

-- WE SHOULD REGARD USE OF SOVIET COMBAT TROOPS IN AFGHANISTAN AS A VERY SERIOUS MATTER WHICH COULD HAVE ADVERSE REPERCUSSIONS THROUGHOUT THE REGION AND FOR EAST-WEST RELATIONS.

4. PLEASE KEEP US ADVISED OF PGOI VIEWS ON THESE MATTERS.

